

John D. Woelpper to George Washington, March 23, 1774, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM MR. JOHN DAVID WOELPPER.¹

PHILADELPHIA March 23th. 1774:

HONNOURD SIR!

When I Return, Last from Williams Burg, I was Favourt with your Letter, Dated feby 7th: I most Humble pegg your parton, In not, observing my Duty, upon your favour, Recd. Dated, the 1 of Nov, 1773: I was In expectaision to have the Honnour, to [have] waited upon you, In a little Time, affter I Recd it, but I was prevented by the wather,—

My Tract of Land, which I have by, Governors Dunwoodie, proclamaision, I Sold it, Last when I come up from Wms: Burg, I am greatly oblige to you, for your addvice,—

If your Honnour Choose to buy my Claim, of the 2000 acers, for which I got my warrant, in the kings proclamaision, 1763. you are will come to it, If you can get the warrant altherd, to a Nother County, where you pleas,

Sir, as you have Some Intainsion, to Impord Some of my Countery man, To Sattlen your Land, and to Resolve your Quistion, which you has macke, to your Servant, To which I will give you, my Humble answer, to the best of my knowledge, and Informaision, by the oldish² pallataions Importer Samuel Howel, as for The

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1. It is Some Times, a great Deficultay to get them, In Holland, or Garmany, On accot: of the Interpreters/: or what the Coalled Newlanders:/ when these go up to Garmany, Some Tack up Some Monye, by the Marchant Inholland, and Some not, when they come back to holland, The Marcht: there, offert them Some monye, who give most to him, will git all the peopell which come with him, The[y] Never get Less then a Garman Ducat, which is this, currency 14 Shilling, Some Times 20 Shilling—

2 They are not, to be had at all Times, but in the month of May, June July and Augst, So when this Newlanders, Ingage, Some Fameles, in Garmany, they acquaint, the Marcht: in Holland, who [how] many, Freight they have, upon this, they get the Ship Reathy,³ it must, be one Engenglish vessell, no Hollandish Dares come haire, or bring annye pallatians In, they Sent for this vessells to Engeland,—

3. How they are precourret,⁴ in holland, I maintion it, In the, first articular and upon Therre arrival, in holland They muss be Shipped and provision Found, Till they are all together, that the Ship can be Loadet, In 2 or 3 days, NB: If the Ship is provoidet, to Recd. them on Boart, and with provision, Then they do Seat of,—

4. upon what Terms, they are Generally expected, and how mosh a head will Stand, is to the first, viz.

1. Ducat to the Newlander

2 The Rhine Freight

3. the provision

4. the passage over Seas

5. a Littell, which they Called head mon[e]y in holland which may Stand, between 12 or 13£ virginia Currency, a Freight, a Freight, Is a man, or a women, and one that is 14 yarrs old,

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and under 14 yarrs to 4 yarrs, one is a half a Freight, and under 4 yarrs, they are free, but this get no Bet Stall nur provision, This is the whold Expences, except a Littel for Medicain,
—

5. It is not Coustommary, to Sent Some Body, to Garmany, to bring them Down to holland/: which I maintion in my first articular:/ as These Newlanders, macke a Sort of Trad[e] of it, Mr. Howel Saiys it will be batter, to Sent Some Body, with good, Commission, and an agrayment, up to Garmany, That they may Signe the agrayment, Then they Cannot, be persaudet away from him, by another Newlander, or marcht. in Holland, and they will be Chipper⁵ then to get them in holld: wherras the Newlanders cant: bring them on to Spent, and advence them monye, with which they Charge them without Their knowledge, which mackes the Freight So high to 25. 30. 36£ which will be prevented,—

6. A Vessell may go Immediately to Holland, with its Load, paying the Duty in Engeland, Let them have, Tobacco, Tarre, pitch, this articuals are the best marcket In Ambster Dam, or Rother Dam and will never fail,—

7. I maintiond in the 6th articual what marcket will Suit best, As for the whole Cargo Garmans may Cost, Mr. Howel, which Imported this 30 yarrs, Saiys it will amount To 15 or 1800£ Sterling 300 Freight In a vessell, which Cary 2000 or 2500 Barrel of Flower, NB: No body can give annye accot: by the Famelis, becauss, Some are Strong in Numbers with 2. 3. 4. Sons, and it may be, So mainy Dachters, Some in Numbers 4 or 5 in all, and Some no morre. but 2 or 3. in a Famely,—

8. They are Logged in Bed Stals, macke of boards, 6-feet Long and 2 feet waith, This Bed Stals, are so Regulatted, acorting, to the vessel, Some Bed Stals are made for 2. 3. 4.

5. 6 Freight, to hold, and Lay in it, and To keep Theries Necessary⁶ by them, The other paggach,⁷ muss be but Down, in the hold,—

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I went to Some Frind, bud Non Could give me better advice, then, what I know, and Mr. Howel Toll me, I most Humble aquint, you with, all particulars who this Famelis can be had, and Imported, Mr. Howel, atweeisses, and Tincks,⁸ it will be best for a man, gos up to Garmany, he will bring them Chiper⁹ and So maing as him pleases, as they Generally are Imported, as I maintiond in the 5th. articual, with good powers of adorny,¹⁰ and on agrayment, how you will hold them upon the Land,—

Hond: Sir, you was pleassd. to ask me, If I would Inclaine to go, to Holland/: It is True, I macke a Sort of a promiss, to not to go to Sea again, If your Honr: Shall Intrusst me with, I will act that, you Shall have no Reason to Complain against me, If God Spare my Leife and health,—

As for Terms, I will Liffe it to your Honr: Selft: you know werry wel when a man Travels, he cant: Save as when he is at hom, a man must be all most a yarr¹¹ to go from Till his Return, I shall keep good hause, as it Lais in my power, you know werry well, that I am no Drincker or Spent Extranody,

That this peopell, will come over, upon better Terms, and morre the better, as half So moch, as they Commonly Stand, a Freight will not Stand, So hight, to bring them Down, upon the Land, on Ohio, as they Stand, when they come to Philada:—

That they may Looock upon them Self, as your Property, Is no morre, but Just, Till they Reimburse your monye again, affter, this to get a Leais, for one or morre 100 acers, to pay Rent, and affter the Times is expaiert,¹² to Renew it again—That you expect, that they would be Jointly bound, togethater for their proformens, It will be Just.—

When I shall have the Honr: to waited upon you, I would proposs to you, which will be I believe farr better, to your Indress, That is to Saiy—Some freight will be, that come over from Holld: or Garmany, will be Singel men, or women, Those can be Disspossd of, and

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Rathy¹³ Cash Recd. for them, this Cash Can be aployd. for expences, to Transport, their Famelis Down to your Land,—

Sir, as I have answerd to your Disseuer,¹⁴ I will proposse Some Thing to you, If you, Tack it, in your Consiteraision, I belive, it would be best, and not half So moch expences, as to Import Some Garmans,—

That is to Saiy, To Draw an agrayment how you want to Settlen your Land, and to get it printed, and a man, go from Court to Court house, in Court Times, That you promiss to Tack them up, in a Sertain place, on the Roath¹⁵ to bring them to Pitts Burg, and to provoid for them Therre to Tack them Down by wather, as farr as the Connoss,¹⁶ can go up and Down, and find them/: Till they macke a Crop:/ with provisions as you Thinck proper, as to Reimburssment, the Saime, as by the Garmans.—

Sir, I, belive, you will get as mainy as you pleass This Famelis will know allratty, how to worck in this parts, In particular, If you provoid Some Stock for those which are going, for 3 yarrs, and then to Devoid the Stock, by this mains you will get your monye, Sooner, as by the former when you get your Chair of Cattels,¹⁷ There will be Enough again to buy your Cattels, and when they have Some Steers, you Tack them, on you for your payment, or on your Debt,—If it Cost you So mainy pounds, as to bring in Garmans, with Expences, and to buy Cattels, and Expences to Pitts Burg, and If one accident Shall happnet by them, that a men Died—There will be constand a nother that will Tack the widow, By the others if a father Died and a passall of Smal Children be Lefft, what will you Do with them—

Hond: Sir, If you Shall Choose the first, It will be best to Imploy a vessell heire, and Load it, with Tobacco, In failling of Tobacco, Sent it to Carrolina, to get Reice, Tarre, and pitch, which will Save, agreatyle¹⁸ expences, and therre muss be made out, Some agent in Holland, in good Times, to procurr good and Sound provision, and all Necessarys, and in Need Some

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mony, I Supposs your Honr. has a Corresponds in Engeland, If not. Mr. Howel, herr will:/
I belive:/ macke out one for you in Holland, The vessell muss be Rathy, finish when they
peopel, come Down the River Rhine, to Tack them In, which will Save, agreatilly expences
—

Honnourd Sir I am your Most Humble, and Most Obet:

Servt: D: WOELPPER.

1 Familiarly known in the Virginia regiment during the French and Indian war, throughout which he served, as Sergeant David Wilper. He attained a higher rank during the Revolution, however, for Washington (recommending him for promotion) refers to him as a first lieutenant, and on July 17, 1776, he was appointed by Congress Captain of a "company to be added to the German battalion."

2 Oldest

3 ready.

4 procured.

5 cheaper.

6 their necessities.

7 baggage.

8 advises and thinks.

9 cheaper.

10 attorney.

11 year.

12 expired.

13 ready.

14 desire.

15 road.

16 canoes.

17 share of cattle.

18 a great deal.